



May 18, 2020

Ms. Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Lyda Krewson
Mayor

Executive Director

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RE: Local Match Commitment for the 2020 BUILD Grant, Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street Revitalization Corridors

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the St. Louis Development Corporation's (SLDC's) pledge and local funding commitment for the **Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street Revitalization Corridors Project** in the City of St. Louis, Missouri. SLDC is the economic development arm for the City of St. Louis, and on behalf of the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority of the City of St. Louis (LCRA), SLDC is committed to providing **\$1,851,000.00** in local match funds for this 2020 BUILD Grant application. With this additional financial commitment, **our total local match is \$15,518,585, contributing 39.80%** to the project's overall program estimate of \$38,994,000. Alongside our project partners at the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and Great Rivers Greenway, this project is also receiving \$824,000.00 (2.11%) in local agency funds. Previously committed local match funds of \$13,668,000 (35.05%) have also been committed from an awarded STP-S Grant, two awarded CMAQ Grants and previous SLDC commitments to the final design and right-of-way effort. SLDC is eager and very committed to this 2020 BUILD Grant application.

SLDC understands the investment of USDOT funds in the **Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street Revitalization Corridors Project** will yield significant local, regional, and national benefits as this project excels across all eight BUILD program criteria, and demonstrates the spirit of which the BUILD Grant was developed and funded for.

In 2024, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) will move into its new \$1.75B federal facility (Next NGA West) along N. Jefferson Avenue. **The Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street Revitalization Corridors Project** is essential for the community to properly benefit from the significant investment of Next NGA West. The project corridors will not only provide safe and efficient access to NGA, but they will leverage this investment by fostering additional developments supporting NGA's employees, visitors and the community as a whole.

To date, **nearly 75% of the nearly \$40M budget has been secured**, evidence that the St. Louis region has come to recognize the importance of these two corridors. The remaining 25% of the budget that this BUILD



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application is requesting would be to rebuild the Jefferson Corridor in front of Next NGA West, which will have a Jefferson Avenue frontage spanning over 0.5 miles.

This application speaks to the magnitude of revitalizing both the N. Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street corridors together, to holistically address major pedestrian and traffic improvements, stormwater management, and a new, separated bicycle facility along 20th Street, and to properly balance the needs of vehicles, transit, pedestrians and bicyclists. In a location where 41% of the residents are transit-dependent, this project could not come at a better time. This bike facility will be an important link in the St. Louis region, connecting North St. Louis and NGA to a proposed regional greenway by Great Rivers Greenway, stretching across city limits, from the St. Louis Arch to Forest Park, and to several other City bicycle routes.

The **Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street Revitalization Corridors Project** will improve mobility and safety issues clearly identified by local residents and business owners alike. Investments underway along these corridors will greatly benefit, and more businesses will be encouraged to develop. As a result, a diverse range of residents, business owners, and community leaders have joined in supporting the project.

For all these reasons, **SLDC is fully committed to the local match funds for the Jefferson Avenue and 20th Street Revitalization Corridors Project**, and strongly supports the USDOT in the favorable selection of this project for the 2020 BUILD awards. This is an important project with local, regional, and national benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Otis Williams

Executive Director